

GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON MONITORING SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: December 1, 2005
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: King Street Center
Seattle, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair	Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair	Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Laura Johnson	Director, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Bruce Crawford	Program Manager, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Joe Scordino	Deputy Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
Chris Drivdahl	Designee, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Sarah Brace	Designee, Puget Sound Action Team
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fish Commission
Bill Riley	Designee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jeff Breckel	Designee, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Richard Brocksmith	Designee, Lead Entity Advisory Group
Paul Ancich	Designee, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Advisory Board
Steve Waste	Designee, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings opened the meeting of the Governor's Forum on Monitoring (Forum) at 9:08 a.m. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Chris Drivdahl **MOVED** to approve the October 5, 2005 minutes. Ginny Stern **SECONDED** the motion. Minutes **APPROVED** as presented.

Co-Chair Koenings reviewed the agenda for the day and asked to move the smolt monitoring presentation to 10:45 as he needed to leave by 11:30 a.m. due to another commitment. Co-chair Ruckelshaus will chair the remainder of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SALMON RECOVERY REGIONS

Bruce Crawford summarized the draft recommendations for Forum consideration. (See handout for further details.)

Bruce reviewed the background on this subject and the memorandum to the recovery regions.

Recommendation 1: Include adaptive management

Comments:

Josh Baldi found stronger language on adaptive management in the first paragraph on page 6. He suggested including that comment in the adaptive management recommendation.

Recommendation 2: Address ESU Viability

Comments on Recommendation 2-1:

Jeff Breckel asked if monitoring one population would be enough in a major population group (MPG).

Joe Scordino noted that currently Interagency Review Teams (IRTs) are providing the guidelines. He believes Bruce is saying that at least one population needs to be in each MPG, but that guidelines may have more details.

Jeff Breckel doesn't want to imply that one population will be enough to satisfy NOAA's requirements.

Russell Scranton explained that to evaluate productivity, just one population is needed. But abundance is dependent on recovery plan goals and recommendations. He suggested adding extensive monitoring on at least one population.

Bruce explained that the reason for the wording in the document is because the details have not been worked out on this issue.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus suggested adding the phrase "This is under review by NOAA and may be adjusted once NOAA has completed review". He also suggested adding "continuously" along with "simultaneously" since this needs to continue and not just happen for one year and then go away.

Bruce pointed out the chart on page 8 of the draft recommendations. Marnie Tyler explained how WDFW plans to use this chart in the future.

Bruce reviewed the recommendation and Chris Drivdahl and Jeff Breckel discussed additional wording for the recommendation. Josh Baldi suggested removing the "one population" wording. Joe Scordino believes that at least one population does need to be monitored with additional populations as recommended by NOAA.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus explained that, in the Puget Sound plan, each MPG has a goal of two populations. There are 10 populations of Puget Sound Chinook.

Bruce noted that the gap analysis needs to be completed early enough to be able to submit a funding request to the Legislature next fall.

Co-Chair Koenings believes there will be a variety of processes needed – continuous and simultaneous – but they also need to be the most efficient for the funding. Need flexibility that meets reality.

Comments on Recommendation 2-2:

None

Comments on Recommendation 2-3:

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings asked if there had been agreement on the definition of abundance and productivity.

Bruce believes the definition is adult-to-adult for productivity and abundance is pre-harvest.

Co-Chair Koenings doesn't feel that adult-to-adult definition captures the smolt information.

Terry Wright noted that this document will be used to report to the Legislature and Congress and doesn't need to be as detailed as the local watershed level monitoring. He believes the information needs to be able to feed into each other but does not need to be as detailed as for the local groups.

Co-Chair Koenings sees this differently – this report has recommendations to the local regions so we need to make sure the information is detailed enough to give the local watersheds enough direction.

Josh Baldi supports the smolt piece and a clearer definition for abundance and productivity.

Co-Chair Koenings reviewed the definition for abundance as the total number of adults returned and the total estimate of smolts for a population.

Recommendation 3: Monitor Reduction of Listing Factors and Associated Threats at the Appropriate (ESU) Scale

Comments:

Chris Drivdahl would prefer a wording change from "identified by TRTs for their region" to "identified by Regional Recovery Plans".

Josh Baldi would like to see both habitat restoration and protection included and make sure it is consistent in the report.

The group discussed the limiting factors versus the listing factors and what is needed for this report. Co-Chair Ruckelshaus would like to have the definition of limiting factors expanded.

Sarah Brace suggested including shoreline restoration and/or nearshore vegetation.

Co-Chair Koenings asked Joe Scordino if these are indicators that NOAA wants.

Joe responded that he would include the word “potential” in describing indicators.

Bruce asked if it would cause a problem if Washington State used different indicators from other states.

Joe does not see this as a problem since each area is different

Co-Chair Koenings asked if the committee wants to redo this matrix.

Sarah Brace reminded the group of the need to link this with the State of the Salmon Report and regional plans.

Jeff Breckel also questioned whether this chart is necessary and noted the need to be consistent on elements.

Ginny Stern believes this is a place to start with footnotes on where additional information may be found or other data sets gathered.

Bruce would like to keep the chart in the report. He noted there was a lot of discussion in the subcommittee on the contents of the chart and this is a beginning of what is needed. There may be regional needs that go very deep but aren't necessary for the Forum's level of reporting.

Terry Wright suggested putting the chart at the end as the verbage on each of the indicators gives a better explanation.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus stressed the need to keep in mind the cost of all the indicators, including the basic fish in fish out indicator.

Chris Drivdahl suggested a paragraph at the beginning explaining that the first priority is fish in fish out and that the second would be the indicators. The third priority would be the regional recovery plan indicators.

Josh Baldi agreed with the need for an upfront paragraph but not exactly as Chris presented as far as the sequencing. He would like to see it fit into the PCSRF and State of the Salmon Reports.

Joe wondered how the funds change the number of fish so that they can be taken off the list. He feels that numbers aren't the only things to look at to show that we are making changes and the changes are making a difference. It is a balancing act and the chart shows the two sides.

Bruce agrees that the chart should have been an example at the end of the report.

Co-Chair Koenings noted that at some point the Forum will need to include a way to support GSRO and NOAA reports for what information is needed for consistency in reporting and later add additional indicators.

Bruce explained that Limiting Factors Analysis was used last time but we can't use this information in the future.

Co-Chair Koenings asked about the framework Ecology is working on. Ken Dzimbel gave an explanation on the framework.

Sarah Brace asked if this is both fresh and saltwater. Josh replied that there is a companion piece that focuses on the saltwater but he is not sure how that fits with this framework.

Bruce reported that when the SRFB funded the framework, it was only directed at freshwater at this time.

Sarah wondered if there is a plan for the salt/marine waters framework. Co-Chair Koenings doesn't have an answer to that at this time.

Water Quantity Recommendation

Comments:

Josh Baldi would like to flag this topic for more work to be done.

Hydropower Recommendation

Comments:

Jeff Breckel asked whether the regional effects could also be included.

Co-Chair Koenings noted that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has given pretty strict performance measures that will need to be met.

Listing Factor 2: Over-utilization for Commercial, Recreational or Educational Purposes

Comments:

Terry Wright would like to remove value statements such as the word over-utilization.

Chris Drivdahl asked to also include the word "understandable" with accessible.

Russell Scranton expressed concern with changing the language in the listing factors and suggested the titles remain as over-utilization and ineffective regulatory mechanisms since these are the listing factors.

Co-Chair Koenings asked the group if they would like to change the wording. There was no comment from the Forum members so “over” and “ineffective” were removed.

Recommendation 4: Monitoring Implementation and Compliance

Comments:

No comments.

Recommendation 5: Include Effectiveness Monitoring

Comments:

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked if there will be an Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) oversight committee to regulate how to extrapolate information and determine the cost of monitoring.

Bruce reported that PNAMP does have a subcommittee on IMWs and Steve Leider, GSRO, is the Chair of that group. The group is not focusing on costs.

There was discussion on IMW's and how this data will be used.

Steve Waste reported that the PNAMP subgroup has completed a report on networking IMWs and how the activities are linked.

Co-Chair Koenings is not convinced that IMW's need to be able to be extrapolated to different watersheds but just to show how actions affect the watershed.

Recommendation 6: Data Should be Accessible for Sharing Outside the Regions

Comments:

Paul Ancich asked if there is going to be a particular agency that decides what data is acceptable or not.

Bruce believes the SWIMTAC will be the oversight group on this information.

Co-Chair Koenings asked the members of the Forum if they approved of the changes and comments made on the recommendations to the regions.

Richard Brocksmith noted his concerns with the habitat and water quality recommendations listed on page 4. He would suggest adding a 5th recommendation stating that, although the current state framework for status and trends type monitoring is important and could be supported as a piece of the approach, it would also be important to have non-random, site specific, focused status and trends efforts to answer research and management type questions as outlined in salmon recovery plans.

Bruce commented that monitoring status and trends at the local level would be a huge task and extremely expensive. He discussed how it has been an ongoing issue but the decision was made to look at ESU levels statewide.

Co-Chair Koenings suggested the following for #5 under habitat and water quality recommendations: Where feasible, using local funds, there may be a need for additional watershed specific monitoring to support local restoration management actions.

The recommendations were **APPROVED** with amendments.

2006 BIENNIAL REPORT

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Bruce Crawford suggested the Forum review the draft biennial report and provide comments to Bruce by early January 2006. (See handout for further details.)

SMOLT MONITORING

Tim Smith presented this agenda item. He provided the background on the connection of SRFB with the funding for the WDFW Smolt Monitoring Program.

The recommendation from the Fish Subcommittee is to collect total count data on smolts, spawners, and total adults for the same population.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked how adults are counted and how expensive and necessary this data is.

Bruce explained the process and equation used to get a total adult count. He also noted that this data is used for several different reports and the harvest negotiation process and that costs are in the multi-million dollar range.

Josh Baldi asked about costs for all the smolt monitoring. Laura Johnson recalled the original numbers to be about \$2 million when the SRFB was first asked about funding WDFW.

Tim said they estimate \$100-\$150,000 per start-up site. He explained the request to SRFB for \$300,000. They are also planning to go to the NWPCC to request funding for alignment projects in the Columbia for around \$300,000.

Steve Waste explained the NWPCC policy on funding monitoring – they would not want to fund something that should have been funded by the state legislature. They do fund monitoring infrastructure on a one-time basis.

Chris Drivdahl recalled not approving the \$65,000 request from the nearshore/estuary group for future scoping and feels approving this request for \$80,000 to WDFW for future scoping would be unfair.

Tim wished the nearshore request would have been funded as he believes that is a critical effort.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus explained the past philosophy of the SRFB on funding of programs and lead entity projects. The question is, does this project move the monitoring efforts of the state forward? Is this a critical gap and will we lose ground if this isn't funded? How does this fit into the Puget Sound recovery plan? Also, is this supported by the Governor's office so that if the Monitoring Forum brings this forward as a budget request in the future, will the Governor's office support this request as part of the overall state monitoring plan?

Bruce suggested the Monitoring Forum recommend to the SRFB to fund \$250,000, which would be the same level as the last two years.

Chris offered a friendly amendment to request that WDFW add one more column to the chart to indicate if the specific site fits into the recommendation.

Josh Baldi wondered if approving monitoring funding is something the Forum will be doing regularly and, if so, should it be at the broader scope.

Bruce indicated that the Executive Order says the Forum is supposed to make recommendations on monitoring to the SRFB and state agencies.

Jeff Breckel doesn't have a problem with the SRFB funding the existing monitoring sites at least for one year, especially if this fills a data gap as not funding may lose critical historical data. However, he noted that this doesn't answer the question of future funding.

Bruce asked what recommendation should be presented at the SRFB meeting.

Laura Johnson noted that she did not hear a recommendation during this meeting.

Josh agrees with Laura but doesn't feel there was sufficient information to make an informed decision.

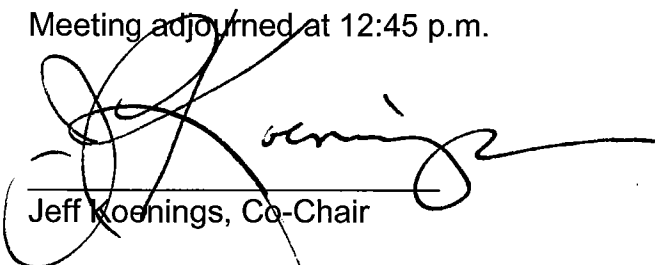
NEXT MEETING

Agenda items were discussed for the next meeting of the Forum:

- Approve 2006 Biennial Report
- Review OFM interim report

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: January 17, 2006
Sawyer Hall
Lacey, Washington